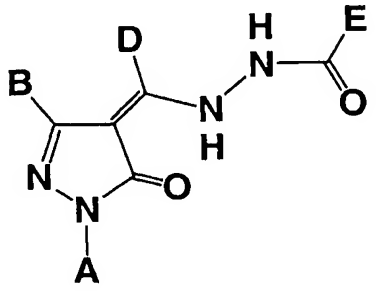
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-37 (Canceled).

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A pyrazolone compound represented by the following formula (1):



Formula (1)

wherein

A is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, and

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

B is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

D is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms; and

E is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group is optionally substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, one or more nitro groups, one or more halogen atoms, one or more cyano groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, NG^1G^2,

wherein G^1 and G^2 are independently hydrogen atoms, formyl groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more carboxyl groups, one or more sulfonic acid groups, one or more phosphonic acid groups, one or more ~~carbamido~~ carbamoyl groups,

wherein the ~~carbamido~~ carbamoyl group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group, one or more ~~sulfamido~~ sulfamoyl groups, one or more ~~hydroxycarbamido~~ hydroxycarbamoyl groups, one or more ~~hydroxysulfamido~~ hydroxysulfamoyl groups, one or more tetrazole groups, and one or more C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups or $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$,

wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NG^3,

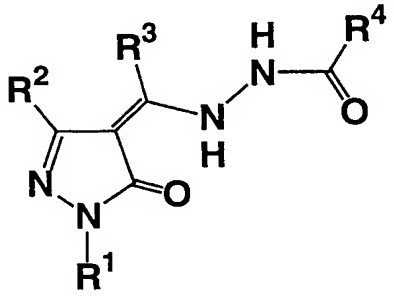
wherein G^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group,

wherein Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3, and

wherein the ~~sulfamido~~ sulfamoyl group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): A pyrazolone compound represented by the following formula (2):



Formula (2)

wherein

R^1 is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, and

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, and

R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group is optionally substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, one or more nitro groups or NR^5R^6, and

wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen atoms, formyl groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups;

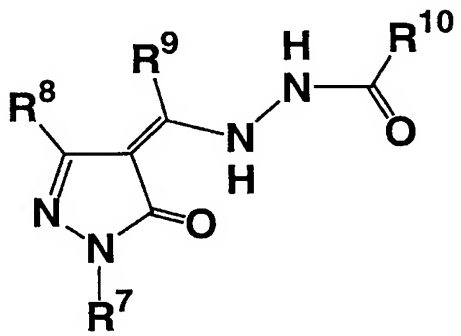
a tautomer prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 39, wherein R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 39, wherein R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with NR^5R^6 (wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen atoms, formyl groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups), a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 39, wherein R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more nitro groups, a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A pyrazolone compound represented by the following formula (3):



Formula (3)

wherein

R^7 is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, and

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

R^8 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

R^9 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, and

R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group is optionally substituted with one or more carboxyl groups, one or more sulfonic acid groups, one or more phosphonic acid groups, one or more ~~carbamido~~ carbamoyl groups, one or more ~~sulfamido~~ sulfamoyl groups, one or more ~~hydroxycarbamido~~ hydroxycarbamoyl groups, one or more ~~hydroxysulfamido~~ hydroxysulfamoyl groups, one or more tetrazole groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups or $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$,

wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NR^{11},

wherein R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group, and

wherein Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more carboxyl groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound, or a solvate thereof.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$, wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NR^{11}; and R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group, wherein Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more sulfonic acid groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

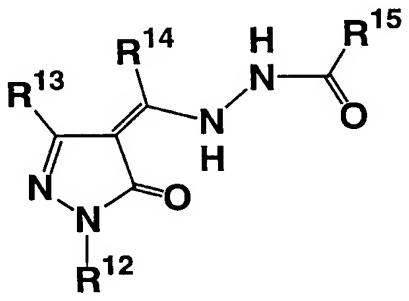
Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more phosphonic acid groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more tetrazole groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more ~~carbamido~~ carbamoyl groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more ~~sulfamido~~ sulfamoyl groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): A pyrazolone compound represented by the following formula (4):



Formula (4)

wherein

R^{12} is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups,

one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, and

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

R^{13} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

R^{14} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, and

R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group is substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, a ~~carbamido~~ carbamoyl group and a ~~sulfamido~~ sulfamoyl group,

wherein the ~~carbamido~~ carbamoyl group and the ~~sulfamido~~ sulfamoyl group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group, and with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group, a sulfonic acid group, a phosphonic acid group, a ~~carbamido~~ carbamoyl group, a ~~sulfamido~~ sulfamoyl group, a ~~hydroxycarbamido~~ hydroxycarbamoyl group, a ~~hydroxysulfamido~~ hydroxysulfamoyl group, a tetrazole group, a C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl group and $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$,

wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NR^{16},

wherein R^{16} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group, and

wherein Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 51, wherein R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with a hydroxyl group and a carboxyl group; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 51, wherein R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with an amino group and a carboxyl group; a tautomer, a prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 51, wherein R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a nitro group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, a ~~carbamido~~ carbamoyl group and a ~~sulfamido~~ sulfamoyl group, wherein the ~~carbamido~~ carbamoyl group and the ~~sulfamido~~ sulfamoyl group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group, and with a carboxyl group; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 38.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 39.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 40.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 41.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 42.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 44.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 45.

Claim 63 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 46.

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 47.

Claim 65 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 48.

Claim 66 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 49.

Claim 67 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 50.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 51.

Claim 69 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 52.

Claim 70 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 53.

Claim 71 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 54.

Claim 72 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical preparation, comprising the thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 55 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented): A platelet increasing agent comprising the thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 55, as an active ingredient; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the activator or a solvate thereof.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented): A medicament comprising at least one pyrazolone compound of formula (1) according to Claim 38.